

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECDEF
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UG, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON UGANDA

1. IN JUST-CONCLUDED EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION PLANNING DISCUSSIONS IN NAIROBI, DEPTOFFS PROMISED TO KEEP FRG AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA FROEWIS INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF UGANDAN ISSUES, SO THAT LATTER COULD IN TURN ADVISE INTERESTED AMERICAN CITIZENS (PARTICULARLY ONE GROUP IN FORT PORTAL AREA WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS BEEN CONSIDERING LEAVING UGANDA DURING PERIOD OF EXPECTED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON UGANDA). ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST EMBASSY BONN PASS FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO FRG FONOFF FOR CONVEYING SOONEST TO FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA.

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2. THREE SUBCOMMITTEES OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAVE ANNOUNCED JOINT PUBLIC HEARINGS ON UGANDA STARTING FEBRUARY 1. STATE DEPARTMENT WITNESS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY FEBRUARY 2. IMMEDIATE FOCUS OF HEARINGS WILL BE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON UGANDA POLICY INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMEN BONKER, PEASE AND OTHERS, AND LEGISLATION PROPOSED BY CONGRESSMAN PEASE (AND NUMEROUS CO-

SPONSORS) CALLING FOR RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. TRADE WITH UGANDA. HOWEVER, HEARINGS WILL ALSO BE OCCASION OF GENERAL DISCUSSION OF UGANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH UGANDA. HEARINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO LAST INTO SECOND WEEK OF FEBRUARY, AND FURTHER LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS ON UGANDA BY BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE MAY WELL EXTEND OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.

3. AS AMBASSADOR FROEWIS IS AWARE, DEPARTMENT OPPOSES SEVERAL ELEMENTS OF BONKER/PEASE RESOLUTION AS WELL AS TRADE BOYCOTT PROPOSED BY PEASE BILLS. DEPARTMENT TESTIMONY WILL REFLECT THESE POSITIONS. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER SPECIFIC PROPOSAL OR INFORMATION TO BE PRESENTED AT HEARINGS WHICH WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE IMMEDIATE NEGATIVE UGANDAN REACTION, BUT HEARINGS ARE BOUND TO GENERATE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY ON UGANDA WHICH COULD WELL COME TO ATTENTION OF UGANDAN AUTHORITIES. BELIEVE FORT PORTAL GROUP WOULD WANT TO ASSESS ITS PLANS FOR COMING MONTHS IN LIGHT OF OUTLOOK BOTH FOR IMMEDIATE HEARINGS AND FOR SUBSEQUENT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF UGANDAN QUESTION. VANCE

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